Church Life

First Baptist Church
Chicago Illinois

Periodical

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

REV. WESLEY M. EMBREE, Assistant Pastor
In charge of Raymond Mission
3256 Union Avenue

REV. AUSTEN K. DE BLOIS, Pastor
3319 Calumet Avenue

REV. FREDERIC C. W. PARKER, Assistant Pastor
3105 Calumet Avenue

Deacons

John P. Ahrens
James Barron
John Lindley
H. F. Mallory
J. S. McCullough
James McElroy
E. D. Neal
R. S. Parker
C. A. Pienkowsky
W. R. Raymond
C. E. Whitmore
Wm. Wigney

Deacons for Life

William Garnett
Edward Goodman

Clerk

Harry F. Perkins, 3104 Groveland Ave.

Trustees

H. F. Googins
T. E. Donnelley
J. G. Marsh
C. H. Marshall
M. J. Piercey
Henry P. Pope
W. Tomlinson
R. B. Twiss
John H. Wrenn

Treasurer

Richard B. Twiss, 115 Dearborn Street

Collector of Pew Rent

M. J. Piercey, 412 Pullman Building

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Sunday School
C. E. Whitmore, Superintendent
3329 Indiana Avenue

Christian Endeavor Society
Julius A. Hessler, President
3220 Vernon Avenue

Ladies' Benevolent Society
Mrs. Clifford Williams, President
3253 Forest Avenue

Women's Mission Circle
Mrs. J. F. Gillette, President
2908 Michigan Avenue

Amoret Henson Guild
Miss Rubie E. Day, President
3319 Calumet Avenue

Men's League
Thomas E. Donnelley, President
2016 Calumet Avenue

Young Ladies' Missionary Society
Miss Leila Ahrens, President
3218 Vernon Avenue

Boys' Club
Samuel Lingle, President
3144 Vernon Avenue

Raymond Mission

Poplar Avenue and Thirtieth Street

W. M. Embree, Assistant Pastor in charge
Lewis Austermell, Superintendent Sunday School
Russell C. King, President Christian Endeavor Society
Mr. Wilshire, Director of Girls' Drill Club

Church Life

VOLUME I JANUARY 1904 NUMBER I

The Annual Meeting

The seventieth annual business meeting of the church was held on Wednesday evening, January 13th. Dr. de Blois acted as the chairman of the evening. Reports were read from the Pastor and Assistant Pastor and from the various officers and organizations of the church. Deacon Parker submitted his 27th annual report as treasurer of the Fellowship Fund, showing $100 distributed to those in need, leaving a balance of $42.86. The Treasurer, R. R. Twiss, reported the total receipts, including amounts for benevolences as $[illegible] and with bills paid a balance [illegible] of $287.98. The complete report is omitted because a special printed report has been submitted. The report of the Sunday School Treasurer is omitted because the Finance Committee has submitted quarterly printed reports and the main items of the annual report are included in the superintendent's report. With these exceptions the reports are printed as fully as space will permit.

The nominating committee, C. R. Stouffer, Deacon E. D. Neal and H. F. Googins, made its report and the following officers were elected by the church for the year 1904.

Deacons: John Lindley, H. F. Mallory, J. S. McCullough, James McElroy, Wm. Wigney; Trustees: H. F. Googins, Jno. H. Wrenn, T. E. Donnelley, J. Gorton Marsh, C. H. Marshall, Henry P. Pope, M. J. Piercey, H. W. Tomlinson, R. B. Twiss; Church Clerk: H. F. Perkins, F. S. Allen, Assistant; Treasurer: Richard B. Twiss, H. C. Holloway, Assistant; Collector of Pew Rent: M. J. Piercey: Auditing Committee, J. D. Stowell, H. J. Hale; Baptismal Committee: John Lindley, M. V. Wagner, Mrs. G. Elkin, Miss Jessie Lindley, Miss Ida Barstow, Miss Clara Stowell; Church Mission Committee: Wm. Wigney, Bowman C. Lingle, Mrs. R. R. Donnelley, Lewis T. Austermell, C. D. Wrenn, A. R. Rhenisch; Library Committee: C. H. Stone, J. A. Hessler, Walter G. Tucker, Miss B .Florence Kellow, Mrs. G. M. Atwell; Sunday School Officers: Superintendent, C. E. Whitmore; Ass't Superintendent, James Barron; Secretary, Robert Pickett; Treasurer, C. H. Stone; Librarian, Chas. W. Henson.

The Report of the Pastor

To the First Baptist Church of Chicago:

Dear Friends and Fellow-Workers: Though my period of service as your pastor did not commence until some time after the beginning of the year 1903, it seems well that I should present at this time my First Annual Report, in order that your outlook upon the work of the church may be complete. There are also some suggestions which I wish to make, and certain needs to which I wish to call attention, and these can best be presented in connection with such a general review of conditions as the annual report provides. I therefore present my statement, and with it the various reports which have been submitted to me as the leader of the spiritiual activities of the church by the officers of the different societies and organizations.

The Life of the Church.

Taken as a whole the various departments of the church are in excellent working order at the beginning of the new year. There has been no phenomenal growth nor is there any painful weakness. All organizations are alive and

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active, and a healthful interest pervades them. Even the most pessimistic person—though I am sure we have no gloomy-minded ones in our membership—would agree that we are well-prepared, both in strength and spirit, for an aggressive campaign during the coming year in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Year's Losses.

The most sorrowful event of the past year was the sudden departure of our honored Deacon Broughton. By his death at Colorado Springs on the 7th of November the church was deprived of a beloved member, a wise counsellor, a faithful officer. The deacons miss his spiritual fellowship, the Sunday School his careful instruction, the church his many helpful ministries. Amongst other standard-bearers who have gone before us to the heavenly home have been two of our oldest members, Mrs. Ellen P. Vail, who united with the church some forty-six years ago, and Mr. J. E. Loomis, who was upwards of 90 years of age at the time of his death. The young also have been called. In the full tide of a hopeful and promising life the summons came to Col. Walter S. King, Miss Florence Frazier and Miss Lillian Groom. The memorial roll for the year contains as well the names of Mrs. McKenzie, Mr. Robert Griffin, Mrs. Jessie Titman and Lee Gee.

The Church's Teaching Service.

The whole question of Sunday School work, and religious instruction in general, is passing into the crucible of public discussion. Perhaps the greatest problem of the churches today is that which concerns itself with the winning and holding of children and young people in the Sunday Schools of our land. The prime necessity is for vigorous and effective teaching. Unconsciously perhaps, but no less really, the children are demanding the same habits of promptness, the same care, the same sympathy, the same knowledge and power, in their Sunday teachers and in Sunday School management that they find in their public schools. The effort to supply this is too often an attempt to make bricks without straw, for too many look upon the teaching of the Bible to the youth of our churches as a voluntary labor of love, worthy of all praise, rather than a vital and fundamental element of church life and growth. The teaching of God's word to children should be regarded as the highest privilege of a Christian man, calling for the enlistment of his most virile energy and his deepest devotion. This ideal we must set before us, and for its realization the full force of the church's interested co-operation is necessary.

The Home Sunday School.

I believe that the inauguration of the Home Department is bearing toward that end. Mr. Parker and Mr. Willians, with their loyal associates, have carried the school into many of our homes during the past year. By this means a large body of our people are receiving help from a thoughtful study of the weekly lessons, and the reflex benefits upon church and school, cannot fail to be fruitful.

Other Signs of Progress.

The Fisher Mission Band, organized during the year, has proved its value as a stimulus to the children in practical missionary benevolence. Not only have more than $100 been raised through this agency, but the name of the Band has been constantly on the lips of the children, and this in itself has an educational influence.

The school is to be congratulated on the fact that three very important classes are now under most efficient leadership. Deacon Ahrens has charge of the Adult Bible Class, Mrs. Googins of the Guild Class, and Mr. Mallory of the League Class. Great results will undoubtedly attend the future work of these classes.

Visitation Work.

Miss Durfee's efficient services as Sunday School Missionary will long be remembered with deep gratitude. She carried comfort and sunshine everywhere and accomplished a noble mission for our church. Assistant Pastor Parker will organize a far-reaching and systematic scheme of visitation for the coming year. To make this a source of immense helpfulness to our school and church he will need the cordial co-operation of forty or fifty devoted people. This neighborhood work, now about to be undertaken, is the most noteworthy feature of our church life in the immediate future. The children of the Sunday School today are the church of tomorrow. Our community has multitudes of children who are not in any Sunday School. We should all pray most earnestly, and add our efforts to our prayers, that these many neglected ones may be gathered into the spiritual fold.

Personal Work.

Many of the teachers have given me

encouraging proofs of their genuine interest in their scholars during recent weeks. Some have spoken with me again and again regarding their boys or girls, some have written to me, several have brought to my house for special conferences those who seemed specially interested in the Christian life. There has been a marked absence of excitement, or emotional appeal, both of which I very much deprecate. The Holy Spirit is leading these true-hearted teachers and moving amongst these young people, and a number have already given themselves fully to Jesus Christ.

Raymond Mission.

I cannot speak too highly of the courage and faith and zeal of Mr. Austermell and Mrs. Wigney and their associates at Raymond Mission Sunday School and Industrial School. Let me call emphatic attention to the fact that the church is facing a crisis at this outpost. We must vacate our present premises very soon as the land upon which the Mission building is located has been condemned by the Park Commissoners, and the building itself does not belong to us. We are doing a vigorous work in the midst of a community teeming with life and opportunity. To abandon it would be criminal. To turn it over to the City Mission Society would be cowardly. All the wisdom of the church is needed to meet [illegible] triumphantly. Great care is [illegible] being taken in the selection of [illegible] pastor for this field who shall [illegible] competent to lead in the new [illegible]. The spiritual interests of the Mission have lagged during the past year so far as conversions are concerned. Of 37 baptized into the church only 7 were from the Mission and 30 from the Home church. Of 44 who were baptized the year previous about 30 were from the Mission and 14 from the Home Church. Next week I expect to hold special meetings for four or five evenings, in preparation for the coming of a new assistant pastor to take charge of the work. It should be added that the general conditions at Raymond Mission are most promising.

Church Organizations.

As appears in the reports, these are all doing well. The Look-Out Committee, recently appointed by the Benevolent Society, supplements the individual work, so helpfully rendered by our members, in greeting strangers at the close of the regular church services. The annual praise service of the Ladies Mission Circle was one of the most inspiring occasions in the history of the year. Mr. Rhenisch calls attention to the significant movement which is going forward everywhere today in behalf of work with boys. It is being felt more and more by many in our membership, and felt with increasing depth of conviction, that our church must provide some means of meeting in an adequate way the needs of the boys of our community.

A Parish Building.

Sooner or later our church, in order to solve the perennial problem, "How to Reach Men and Boys," must make a grand effort to procure for them those advantages which their physical, social, intellectual and religious natures demand. We must follow the lead of one hundred of the New York churches, and scores of other churches in our great cities, which have adopted successfully new plans and new methods looking to the winning of men for the higher life, and their development in all honorable ways. Let us meditate upon this matter, until as we muse the fire burns, and we shall arise in our strength and grapple this great problem. I set it before you now, as one of the gravest questions, and one of the greatest opportunities of this church. By all means let us not go too hastily. But on the other hand let us clearly understand that a changing environment lays upon us new responsibilities and opens before us new and grander possibilities.

Church Services.

The regular Sunday morning congregations have been large. The handsome printed order of services which appears each week is provided through the generosity of Mr. T. E. Donnelley. The communion has been well attended, the average number of communicants being 330. At the evening exercises we have many young people and strangers; the attendance of the church people is not as great as it should be. No special efforts have been made to secure a larger congregation in the evening, and no sensational themes have been presented. A quiet but deep interest has pervaded these evening services and the after-meetings have been very helpful. An effort will be made to advertise more widely the Sunday evening service. But some change should be made in the character of this service, in order that it may become more popular. A distinguished clergyman of this city has recently said that ten years ago he could

fill his church without effort on Sunday evenings, but of late he could hardly get a corporal's guard. Four of the churches in our section of the city have abandoned their evening preaching service in despair. This with us is not to be thought of, especially as we gather easily between 300 and 400 people every Sunday night. But we should by some means make our exercises much less dignified and formal, much more hearty and popular. Dr. John Watson of England, has just called attention to this need in the English churches, and we of America face an even more urgent necessity. A chorus choir, enthusiastic singing of familiar hymns, a short sermon, with other features, even perhaps the presence of an orchestra, would invigorate and inspire as well as attract.

Pastoral Visitation.

It is sometimes said that the most and best of a pastor's work lies under the surface. During the month of December, in addition to my public work, administrative work, and sermon preparation, I made more than one hundred pastoral calls. This experience was a genuine pleasure, and brought me into delightful personal fellowship with many members of the church whom before I had met only casually or not at all. Now that I have the general work of the pastorate well in hand, I shall continue this work of visitation as carefully and systematically as possible, and so in future years during the winter months.

Pastor and People.

Last February I received from you a unanimous call to the pastorate of this church. A short time before I had been asked by your pulpit committee to supply here for one Sunday, as so many others had done. I was told distinctly that I was not asked to come as a candidate. The interview which I had with the committee on the evening of the day on which I supplied the pulpit, the wonderfully hearty and generous reception which you gave me at the close of the service, and the call which you so promptly extended, were a series of surprises which took my heart by storm. Up to that time I had known only five or six persons in your entire church membership. Had your call not been so absolutely unanimous, no argument could have induced me to break the relations existing between myself and the church which I served. The Elgin church is one of the largest and strongest in the west, and I believe that I had the loyal support of every person in its entire membership. But the possibilities of the work here, in this historic church, in the midst of this mighty city, appealed to me strongly, and I accepted your call which had come so entirely without my seeking, and began my pulpit ministry here almost immediately, in accordance with your special request.

As the removal of my residence from Elgin did not take place until April, and as I was away for two months on vacation, my real work with the church may be said to have begun in September. During these four months of active and continuous service amongst you I have come to appreciate more than I can tell, your interest in this truly great and honored church. To my wife and myself you have extended many courtesies. Above all you have shown me in many ways and by the spirit of your lives that you love Christ our Master, and are zealous for the progress of His Divine Kingdom.

Our Assistant Pastor.

In entering upon the pastorate I was interested in finding the church activities in such excellent condition. An interval of more than a year between pastorates, in the midst of the strenuous activities of a metropolitan city, would have proved fatally disastrous to many a church. The wise and unremitting labors of your Assistant Pastor were one of the great efficient causes in holding the membership together and preventing any such disintegration. In consequence, and owing to the devotion of the great bulk of the people, I found that few had drifted away or become lukewarm. And the same faithfulness which Bro. Parker showed in the interval between pastorates he has ever since displayed in all his many tasks. I esteem it the highest privilege to have him for an associate in the pastoral work.

The Future.

I have indicated several lines of activity in which aggressive work should be undertaken. In examining the reports which have been submitted to me as pastor by the officers of the various organizations I have found other needs suggested, which it seems unnecessary for me to emphasize, as the reports are now before you. Young people are coming into the church. Measures for training them should be undertaken. The older young people are taking up new work, and pressing forward into the broad fields of church life. A great deal of personal work is being done.

Our seventieth anniversary exercises were exceedingly interesting and have quickened the loyalty of many. The church has responded nobly to appeals for help, giving more than $250 to the flood-sufferers, $100 to the Baptist Orphanage, $125 to Dr. Leavitt for Christian Education, $110 to the Chicago Tract Society, in addition to their many other benevolences. There is a feeling everywhere of hope and interest. The best years are yet before us. The Master requires large things of us all here and now. In His Holy Name we go forward to new victories!

Austen K. de Blois.

The Report of the Assistant Pastor

To the First Baptist Church:

Dear Brethren: I have the honor to present my fourth report as Assistant Pastor of the First Baptist Church.

After the grave responsibilities of the year during which the church was without a pastor, it has been a high privilege for me during the past year, to be associated with a pastor with whom I find myself in genuine sympathy. During that former year when aggression had to be secondary to conservation, I found inspiration for the many difficult labors of the critical period in the hope that I might have a share in the new era of advance and progress. And my hope has been realized.

During the past year I have sought in every way to co-operate with the Pastor in the endeavor to develop the Christian energy of our church to the highest efficiency and to increase the power and influence of the church for righteousness and the kingdom of God. This has involved both pastoral and executive work which it is impossible to report in detail even if it were desired.

Sharing the Large Ministry.

In the pastoral work of the church it has seemed to me impossible to differentiate in any hard and fast manner the duties of the Assistant Pastor. This pastoral work is extensive. Our parish extends far beyond the church membership. People from all quarters look to this church in the times of sickness, sorrow, need and death. In this large ministry I have labored with the Pastor. During the summer months I had added responsibilities at the church, leading the prayer services, preaching several Sundays, and speaking at the majority of the open air meetings. During these months when the pastors of other churches were away, my presence in the city brought to me, as usual, the privilege of a widely increased ministry.

Helping Those In Need.

Besides the work for the needy church members, the past year has brought to me an unusually large number of appeals for temporal help from those not members of our church. I have investigated these cases and have sought to secure help for the worthy. But this work is hindered by the lack of a special fund for this purpose. Our church has a fellowship fund and a Drake fund for the benefit of needy church members. Our Sunday school has a fund for the benefit of the scholars. But outside of the clothing to be secured from the Ladies' Benevolent Society, our church makes no provision for aiding non-members, therefore money for such charitable work I have had to solicit personally. It seems to me that our church should recognize its duty to those who are not of the household of faith by providing a special fund for the work. While I recognize the value of organized and scientific charity, yet I believe that the church of Christ should not wholly surrender this ministry to the Bureau of Charity.

Interesting the Strangers.

As far as I have made a differentiation in the more distinctly pastoral work, I have endeavored to place an increasing emphasis upon the work among those not members of our church. In this work there is a twofold endeavor, first to secure the names and addresses of all non-members possible, and secondly, to seek in all possible ways to win those to Christ and the church.

Such names are secured in four ways: a. Through the friends of non-members. b. Through the communion cards. c. Through the welcome cards kept in the church pews. d. Through the work of members in greeting strangers at our services and reporting to me their names and addresses.

The work of interesting these non-members consists of calls by members under my direction, calls by myself and the sending of letters and notices, invitations, etc., etc. By a card index system the names of all such persons are kept, together with a record of all that has been done in their behalf.

The religious census of our neighborhood

which has been undertaken by the Men's League of the church under the direction of Mr. Webster Tomlinson, will be an invaluable help to me, by furnishing a large list of those who are not members of the church or Sunday School. Co-operating with Mr. Tomlinson in this work, I shall classify the results of the census and use them in the endeavor to bring the Christian forces of our church into vital touch with our neighborhood.

The Work of Visitation.

During the year I have directed the visiting committees of various organizations in the making of nearly 1000 calls. I myself have made about 1100 calls, written about 1400 letters and sent out numberless notices, invitations, etc. I am at present still further perfecting the system of visitation by revising the card forms and by districting the neighborhood, assigning to each of the thirty or more districts a leader. Thus it is hoped that the new year may see a still greater number of calls made by our members. To bring our members into vital personal contact those who are not members—this is a most important work in making our church a power in its "sphere of influence."

The Work of Organization.

In the executive work of the church I have also sought to work in close co-operation with the Pastor. I have endeavored to identify myself sympathetically and intelligently with all the organizations seeking to energize them to their greatest efficiency.

The Sunday School in the Home.

Last March I was asked to accept the superintendency of the Home Department of the Sunday School, a new phase of work for our Sunday School. I consented to add this to my other duties for two reasons. I felt that my knowledge of the church membership and my possession of the list of non-members would be a great help in the inauguration and advance of this new and important work. I also believed that this work was closely allied to the endeavors I was making to reach those not members with us, and that it would be an invaluable means of linking many people to our church. I desire to acknowledge the faithful work of many visitors and the invaluable assistance of Mr. C. Williams as secretary. The report of this department of the Sunday School is included in that of the General Superintendent.

The Church Paper.

As Editor of the Baptist Record, I have continued to feel its inadequacy and limitations, as our church paper. Each year I have increased the space devoted to our church life and work. But the paper still has lacked the individuality and style worthy of our church and has been still insufficient for our purposes. It is gratifying therefore that, after working over the problem for some time, I am tonight able to announce that plans have been completed to publish a church paper which it is believed will be comparable with any church paper published.

"Church Life" will be a paper of magazine size, with 16 to 20 or more pages, with special cover, the whole devoted exclusively to the news of our own church. The first issue will appear this month, probably the 31st, and will contain a complete report of the annual meeting. Subsequent numbers will be published on the first of each month. The editorial duties will of course be greatly increased but the editor will have the assistance of department editors for the different phases of our work.

Among the special features promised for the first year is a complete history of our church (which we hope to illustrate) by the one best qualified for such a task, Deacon Goodman. It is hoped in time to include in each issue a sermon by the Pastor.

The subscription price of the paper will be 50 cents a year postage prepaid. The success of the paper demands that a large number of members subscribe for the paper. To subscribers, the paper will be mailed as soon as published, others will be able to secure the papers at the church services.

Words of Thanks.

In closing this report I wish to express my sincerest appreciation of the kindness and sympathy shown to me by Pastor and people and I desire to thank many loyal helpers for their earnest co-operation in my many labors.

Faithfully submitted,

Frederic C. W. Parker.

The Report of the Church Clerk

To the First Baptist Church of Chicago.

Dear Brethren: The records show that during the year 1903 we received into membership by

Baptism	37
Letter	44
Experience	7
Restoration	1
Total gain	89

We suffered a loss by

Letter	36
Death	11
Erasure	34
Exclusion	2
Total loss	83

It will be observed that the records show a net gain of 6 for the year. That 34 names were erased by act of the church for non-attendance for two years or more. If this action had not been taken, the records would show a net gain of 40.

It is of interest to note that while we reported last year 29 as being received by letter, this year we report 44 additions by letter. Last year we reported 42 by baptism; this year only 37 by baptism. Especial attention should be called, however, to the fact that the baptisms nearly all took place during the last four months of the year. Out of 37 for the entire year 24 took place during the fall months: 1 in September, 5 in October, 6 in November, 12 in December.

Among those who have entered into rest during the past year are—Mrs. A. Mackenzie, Miss J. B. Williams, Walter S. King, Reuben Griffin, Florence Frazier, Lillian Groom, Lee Gee, Mrs. Ellen P. Vail, Deacon E. P. Broughton, Mrs. Jessie Titman, J. E. Loomis.

At the close of the year we accepted reluctantly the resignation of Miss Durfee, who as Sunday School visitor beautifully ministered among us for two and one-half years.

The chief event of interest during the year was the acceptance by Dr. Austen K. de Blois of the call to the pastorate of the church. He entered upon the work on February 15th, 1903. Naturally some little time was consumed in getting settled and becoming acquainted and adjusted to the new environment, but we have come to love him and feel that his coming among us was divinely planned; and the results of the last few months indicate that a renewed interest has been awakened among the members and a feeling that we are on the eve of the greatest work in the church's history.

Respectfully submitted,
H. W. Stone, Clerk.

THE REPORTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS

Sunday School

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.

Dear Pastor: The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Sunday School which follow, will give in detail the actual and comparative condition of the school and it is for me to make such suggestions and comments as the situation and the statistics prompt.

Attendance.

You will have noticed a slight decrease in the average attendance for the last year while the total enrollment shows a small increase. For a considerable time the Adult, Men's and Young Ladies Bible classes have been without regular teachers and a part of the time one or two of them were disbanded altogether, which will account, in part, for the decrease in the average attendance. At this time, however, we consider ourselves very fortunate in having secured excellent teachers for each of these classes, which are now well attended.

Finances.

The report of the Treasurer shows receipts during the year of $1,275.10, exclusive of the Birthday Fund. Of this amount $271.18 has been appropriated to benevolent objects. The Birthday Fund, which now amounts to nearly $150.00 accumulates for the benefit of the Raymond Mission Building Fund.

At the beginning of the year the teachers and officers decided to make no appropriations, in advance, for benevolent objects, preferring to be assured first that all expenses of the school should be paid. The surplus remaining was to be divided among the same objects which the school assisted the year before and in the same propor-

tion. This plan avoided the possibility of a deficit at the end of the year. Under the direction of the Finance Committee a portion of the surplus remaining quarterly has been so divided and the balance remaining to the credit of the General Fund will be so paid.

The collection taken by the church in February 1903 for the benefit of the school amounted to nearly $500.00 as compared with $310.00 the year before. The increased amount was badly needed and more could have been used. A school cannot be run successfully without money and we hope for a further increase in the size of the collection which will be taken next Sunday morning. Don't neglect it when the appeal is made.

In addition to the cash contribution made for the Thanksgiving offering, provisions were brought in which inventoried at $21.55 making it possible for us to supply twenty-five families with their Thanksgiving dinners. The pupils in all departments have been encouraged in giving on these special occasions and they seem to relish it. It was thought best to ask the pupils in the Intermediate Department to give, as well as receive, in connection with their Christmas entertainment and the Baptist Orphanage was selected as a suitable object. In addition to the $36.00 contributed in cash there was a large quantity of useful articles sent in.

Entertainments.

During the year the usual exercises were held on Rally Day and Children's Day. The Treasurer's report shows evidences of the picnic which was held on June 20th, and was well attended, considering the threatening weather. The Christmas entertainments in both departments were very interesting and good crowds were present.

Fisher Mission Band.

In connection with the Primary Department, there has been organized the Fisher Mission Band, a missionary organization among the very little folks and mostly officered by them. They had charge of one Sunday morning session which was very largely attended and elaborately executed. Speakers of prominence were on the program. The contributions of the active members, which are not included in the report of the Sunday School Treasurer, have amounted to $72.88 of which $15.00 have been sent to Mr. Fisher in Japan and $35.00 more will follow this month. The initial expenses have been comparatively heavy but they have been covered by the annual dues of the honorary members, among whom is one Theodore Roosevelt of Washington, D. C., and many others scattered in many states.

Home Department.

Shortly after the first of the year, the teachers and officers decided to undertake the formation of a Home Department. If there are any who have not been approached by a representative of that department and who are unfamiliar with its designs we would say that it aims to induce the study of the Sunday School lesson in the home by those who cannot or will not attend the regular sessions of the school. The Assistant Pastor was appointed superintendent and Mr. Clifford Williams, Secretary of the Department. The appointment of these two officials was to insure its successful inauguration. The Department commenced operations at the beginning of the second quarter, April 1st, 1903. The officers hoped to secure an even hundred members but to some it seemed a forlorn hope. But they had hardly gotten a fair start before the century mark was reached and passed and the last heard from them they were anxious to secure an enrollment larger than any other department of the school.

The present enrollment is 276 of whom 245 are active members, making ours one of the largest departments in the city.

The available territory covered by our church membership is divided into twenty-three districts and each district is assigned to a visitor, who visits each member at least once in three months. Of these visitors we have twenty, leaving room for three volunteers. Out of town members are reached by mail.

The report of the Sunday School Treasurer shows an excess of expenditures over receipts of $45.56 owing to the fact that the expenses of three quarters are included and the receipts of but two quarters; the returns of the third quarter not yet being in. This discrepancy will right itself in another year.

This department not only keeps a large number in touch with the Sunday School lessons, but it very materially increases the interest in the school itself. It is a sort of "bureau of publicity and promotion." We have secured nine teachers for the regular school from that department and we hope it will eventually prove to be a constant source of supply. We see little of them as a body, but we were pleased to see quite a delegation at the

Christmas entertainment of the Intermediate Department.

We would recommend that arrangements be made for the regular election by the church, of an Assistant Superintendent to serve this department before next year.

Deaths.

We have lost during the year three of our teachers by death. Deacon Broughton was a familiar figure in all of our church services and his position as teacher of the little ones was not the least of his duties and pleasures. It was an inspiration to see his fatherly deportment in the Sunday School. Miss Florence Frazier also had a class of small boys and had evidently endeared herself to them as well as to her associate teachers. Mr. Walter King too had charge of a class before his health failed. The Primary Department misses all of these teachers.

Departures.

It would be a pleasure to mention in detail the names and services of some who are laying down the work this year. Some who have been connected with the school so long that it will not seem natural not to see them around, are this year asking for a leave of absence. We appreciate their services the more now that we are trying to fill their places. A word of praise would be heartily said, if it were just to praise those who are stopping more than those who are keeping on with the work. We certainly have been fortunate in having a large number of faithful and efficient officers and teachers who deserve the thanks of the church.

New Teachers and New Scholars.

Of these we never have enough. The teacher problem is one that it is increasingly difficult to solve. The demands of the pupils upon the teachers is continually growing more difficult to supply. We have had one hundred different teachers during the year to supply seventy-five classes which means that one class in three has to have a new teacher every year. And even with that number we have not had all classes supplied with teachers. Can't you help?

After the teachers are available persistent effort must be made to secure new pupils. How to get them and how to hold them are questions that have worried every thoughtful Sunday School worker.

Miss Durfee.

The resignation of Miss Durfee will leave a great deal of work for some one to do in connection with the school and will place additional responsibility upon the teachers.

Decision Day.

During the year two Decision Day services have been held at both of which considerable interest has been shown. The last one, held in November last, was conducted by our Pastor and at his invitation fifty-seven arose testifying to their desire to become Christians. Thirteen have united with the church during the year and four more are awaiting baptism.

After all has been said and done the question is not whether we have a school of five hundred or a thousand; but whether or no those whom we do have are being influenced toward a better life. If we cannot do that with a goodly portion of five hundred what more could we do if we had twice as many? That should be our aim and everything else should be contributory thereto. We rejoice, therefore, in such evidences of an earnest desire among our pupils to become Christians and we hope the results will be increasingly favorable, year after year.

I should be doing violence to my own inclinations, if I should fail to publicly acknowledge the assistance the teachers and officers have been to me while I have been trying to serve the school and I venture to hope that I have in some measure been able to reciprocate. Our relations have been so uniformly cordial and pleasant and all have so cheerfully responded to the requests of the officers of the school that the work has been a pleasure in spite of occasional discouragements. Those who conduct your school need your hearty support as well as your kindly criticism and I ask for all who may be elected the same kind of substantial sympathy that I would wish for myself.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. Marsh, Superintendent,

Secretary.

Mr. J. G. Marsh.

Dear Sir: I hereby submit my report as Secretary of the First Baptist Church Sunday School, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1903.

Enrollment:	1903	1902	1901
Prim. dept. (inc. Jr.)	375	369	375
Int'm dept & Bible Classes	363	282	593
Total enrollment	738	651	958

Average Attendance:			
Prim. Dept.	262	279	303
Interm. Dept.	189	196	238
Total average attend.	451	475	541
Grad. Jr. to Prim. Dept.	43	25	45
Grad. Prim. to Int'm Dep.	28	45	46

In addition to the enrollment above there is our Home Department which has been started during the year and is now one of the largest in the city, having an enrollment of 276 members of which 245 are active members. This would bring the total enrollment of the school up to 1014.

The Home Department covers 24 districts for which there are 20 visitors. Bro. F. C. W. Parker, Supt., and Mr. Clifford Williams, Secy.

The Cradle Roll has added 22 names to its list during 1903, and now has a total of 32.

So much for statistics; which show an increased enrollment and a falling off from last year in the attendance. An item of interest is found in some of the scholars' attendance records. Several have been present and early for the entire year, and quite a number, more than 30, have been present every Sunday. Eight have been present every Sunday for two years, and three for three years.

During the year 13 from the school (10 from the Intermediate Dept. and 3 from the Primary) have been baptized, and 4 more received for baptism. 17 conversions as against 3 last year.

A feature of the year's work is the establishment by Bro. C. E. Whitmore in the Primary Department of the Fisher Mission Band. Through this medium the children have contributed the sum of $72.88 in 7 months.

Last year the Men's Class was held with the Sunday School at the regular hour. For the last two months or so, under the auspices of the Men's League and the able leadership of Bro. H. F. Mallory—it has been held after the morning service from 12:30 to 1:15. It has an enrollment of 25 and average attendance of 20.

Our Sunday School is a contributor to the maintainance of the Primary Teachers and Normal Classes which are held at the Trinity Methodist Church on Monday evenings, under the auspices of the Cook Co. S. S. Association, which provides excellent leaders. I have no information as to the exact number of our teachers who attend these classes, but it is earnestly hoped that many will avail themselves of this excellent opportunity.

During the year a number of suggestions looking to the increasing of the efficiency of the school have been made. Some questions that have been considered are as follows:

The re-arrangement of the older scholars in a few large classes, instead of, as now, in many small classes.

The adoption of a graded system of lessons and classes in place of the International Lessons, now used.

A change in the method of nominating and electing the Sunday School officers.

The school, through the resignation of Miss Durfee the Sunday School Visitor, has lost an efficient and faithful worker and it will be necessary in the coming year to provide some means of accomplishing the work which she entered into so heartily. Whether the calling on absentees, the visiting the sick and the distributing of clothing shall be done by committees or otherwise is a question that may be left for the new year.

No report would be complete without the grateful acknowledgement of the good and faithful work done by the teachers and the zeal of those in each of the various departments who have given so generously of their time and talents. In behalf of them I would ask your co-operation the coming year. To quote from previous annual reports "Teachers and substitute teachers are always needed."

Respectfully submitted,
Webster Tomlinson, Secy.

Christian Endeavor Society

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.

Dear Pastor: It gives me great pleasure to hand you the annual report of our Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

Our Christian Endeavor Society during the past year has sought to do work for the Master in our Church and in the community. Early in the year the Trustees came to us asking for a pledge toward the current expenses of the church. We responded by pledging five hundred dollars. Shortly after this our music committee secured funds from our members to get new hymn books. * * * We feel that they have deepened the spiritual tone of our own meetings. From the middle of June until the middle of September we held open air meetings each week at the 31st St. entrance of the church. We are very grateful to our Pastor and Assistant Pastor for their helpful talks at these services. We will never know all the good done by these

meetings, but we have had the great pleasure of seeing some come out publicly for Christ. We were glad to notice the increased interest of the church members in this work and bespeak your heartiest cooperation the coming season.

This year the biennial international convention of Christian Endeavorers was held at Denver. Feeling that our Society would be benefitted by having a representative there we set about to raise the money to send one. We hope you all have a reminder of this work in your homes, either one of the photographs of the church or one of the paperweights. Our representatives were Dr. de Blois, Mr. Parker, Miss Elizabeth Pickett, and the President. We feel that because o f the inspiration of the convention in its constant upholding of the "Forward Movement" and the thought of "World Evangelization," we have been strengthened in our work here. We have welcomed ten new members into our Society since then, and we believe truly that we are going forward all along the line. On the return of our delegates we held an echo meeting, and early in October a rally, at both of which we had excellent reports from the convention.

I would like to mention just one or two points of the good work done by our committees during the year. There has been much good reading matter gathered and distributed at the Baptist Hospital, and Old Folks Home. We have aided in visiting, welcoming, and making acquainted the strangers among us, besides taking to the sick and bereaved ones messages of sympathy in gifts of flowers.

Our gifts to home and foreign missions during the year have amounted to $217.64. The Central Baptist Chinese Mission of this city received $40, and the remainder we gave to foreign work, part of it supporting a native worker in Japan, and also one in India. Our own Society expenses have amounted to $68.45, and we close the year with a good balance on hand.

I wish I had words to portray the helpful and uplifting meetings of the Intermediates and the sunshine and happiness of the Juniors. The Juniors have shared with the children of the Orphanage not only their social good times, but also their money—one dollar for ice cream at Thanksgiving, and $5.00 at Christmas time. They also gave $1.20 to help stuff the Salvation Army Christmas turkey. Each Sunday they take their extra papers to the Baptist Hospital, sometimes with flowers bought with their own savings.

Our motto is "For Christ and the Church" we are known as C. E., we trust that you will find with us that it means Consecrated Endeavorers, and Christ Exalted.

Respectfully,

Harry F. Perkins, President.

Ladies' Benevolent Society

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.

Dear Pastor: The Ladies' Benevolent Society take pleasure in again reporting a year of vigorous work. Our work as in the past, and as the name indicates, is wholly benevolent. We have about 80 members. We have held 17 meetings with an average attendance of 65. We have collected $382.46 and expended $283.41. We have cut and made 381 garments—15 of these were for the Home of the Friendless and 24 for the School Children's Aid Society. We have made 725 calls upon strangers. We have made 13 comforts and 9 quilts. We have distributed 313 new garments and 433 old garments and 16 comforts. Our Look-Out Committee have given 25 names to our Assistant Pastor. We paid the expenses of the Christmas entertainment at the Industrial School. We contributed to the box sent to Leland Universtiy and have sent three barrels of clothing and house-keeping necessities to two missionaries in Kansas. We contributed to the rummage sale for the benefit of the Baptist Church at South Chicago. We have made clothing and done repairing for the needy in our own church and for the poor children in our Home and Mission Sunday Schools. We have done no little mending for the Baptist Orphanage. We made contributions toward window shades at the Baptist Orphanage and toward repairs in one room at the Baptist Orphanage. We donated curtains for a boys' room in Morgan Park. We sent Bibles to the colored students at Leland University. In additional to our practical work we feel that this society accomplishes much in extending a cordial welcome to strangers. Our hopes have not yet been realized. We are not satisfied with doing well, but want to do still better and look forward to greater opportunities in the future.

Mrs. W. Morava, Secretary.

Women's Mission Circle

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.

Dear Pastor: The Women's Mission Circle has just closed the thirty-third year of its existence as an organization.

While most of those who planned this effort of women's work for women in 1871, now rest from their labors, we rejoice in the presence among us of some who remember those days of beginning, and who have through the years grown in ever increasing enthusiasm in this endeavor to uplift by the light of the Gospel the women of all lands.

The average attendance at the ten meetings of the year is 76. This increased average over other years is due to an unusual attendance at the June meeting when the Circle tried by the presentation of a loving cup, to give some expression of its appreciation of the long and faithful service of its President who has presided over the Circle for sixteen years.

Another unusual attendance was at the annual praise service, which by invitation of the church was held at the time of the regular Wednesday evening meeting.

The monthly programs have kept us informed of the work of today in all lands, and the recital of the lives of missionary heroes of the past has been a stimulus to each of us to greater devotion to the cause to which they gave their lives. Much time has been given to praise and we have learned anew the value of the hymns that voice our highest inspirations.

Twice during the year we have enjoyed the presence of students from the Training School and at the quarterly meetings a social hour with simple refreshments has given an opportunity of fellowship among the women of the church.

The Treasurer reports:

Home Mission receipts	$362.95
Foreign Mission receipts	279.86
Total	$642.81

Mrs. S. B. Lingle, Secretary.

Amoret Henson Guild

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.

Dear Pastor: During the past year the Guild has added to its numbers slowly but steadily, twenty-five young ladies having joined our ranks. Many of these new members had no previous connection with the church, thus carrying out one of the fundamental ideas for which the Guild was formed.

The visiting committee have been instrumental in securing many of the new members, as they have made 60 calls during the year.

The entertainment committee's efforts were rewarded in a most delightful and helpful way by securing for speakers during the spring season, Miss Myra Reynolds, of the English Department of the University of Chicago; Mrs. Franklin, a probation officer of the Juvenile Court; Mr. C. P. Bicknell, Superintendent of the Bureau of Charities of Chicago; Prof. Butler of the University of Chicago.

While we have always enjoyed our evenings at the Guild, we felt that we ought to have a more definite plan of work, and the Pastor gave us some very practical suggestions at the opening of the fall season. We have formed several classes to advance the work of the Guild. A glee club is now flourishing under the direction of Mr. C. A. Havens, and Miss Adele Lackner has very kindly consented to instruct a class each month in basket weaving, while a third class does sewing for the Baptist Hospital.

The Guild Bible Class which was taught until July last by Mrs. F. C. W. Parker, has been under the efficient leadership of Mrs. H. F. Googins since the beginning of the Fall work and has grown both in number and in interest.

The outlook in the various lines of work is promising and we hope may be greatly blessed in our work during the year of 1904.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Florence Kellow, Secretary.

Men's League

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.

Dear Pastor: During the year the Men's League has held nine meetings including the ladies' night dinner in June and the annual dinner in November.

Among the speakers who have addressed the League at these meetings are: Mr. F. Getty, Superintendent second class mail, Chicago Post office; Hon. Luther Laflin Mills, Postmaster Coyne, Hon. Wm. Calhoun, Rev. Z. B. Phillips, Trinity Episcopal Church; D. M. Lord, of Lord & Thomas; Henry Bond, teacher Bond Bible Class; Rev. Jenken Lloyd Jones, All Souls Church; Prof. C. R. Henderson, University of Chicago; A. F. Sheldon, President of Sheldon School of Scientific Salesmanship.

The work of the Men's Bible Class, conducted by the League, was hampered the first part of the year because there was no regular teacher. Mr. McCullough and Mr. C. M. Clarke however did faithful work as teachers. This fall an earnest endeavor was made to advance this phase of our work. H. F. Mallory was chosen teacher. An independent course of study was adopted in the place of the Interna-

tional S. S. Lessons. The time of meeting was changed from 9:30, the S. S. hour, to 12:30 o'clock at the close of the church service. With new teacher, new course and new time, the class has gone forward. The growth of the class however has been hindered by several special services of the church which have interfered with its meeting. The average attendance is now 20. It should be 200. The Bible Class committee is planning an aggressive campaign in behalf of the Class. The expenses of this work are met by the League, and the Class collections are devoted to benevolent objects.

While the Bible Class and the meetings afford the opportunity for a far greater work than is being done by our men, yet it is felt that these phases of the work do not exhaust the means which the League must use to reach the men of our neighborhood. What to do and how to do it—these are the questions which are being carefully considered by our officers and by a special Ways and Means Committee recently appointed.

As a help to the solution of our problem and for the benefit of the general church work, the League has undertaken to make a religious census of the neighborhood. Mr. Webster Tomlinson is in charge of this work, and he is assisted by twelve district chairmen, who in turn secure others to help them.

An advanced step has been taken by the League in assuming responsibility for the Boys' Club. This is in direct line of the purpose of the League to reach the men of our neighborhood. By reaching the boys of today, you have won the men of tomorrow. A committee has been appointed to take charge of this work—A. R. Rhenisch, Col. Emery, R. J. Pickett, J. A. Hessler, C. M. Clarke and Bowman Lingle.

We believe the words of Raymond Robins: "The dynamic of a men's club is to do something not for itself but for others." This is what we are trying to do and we are planning how we can do much more.

Respectfully submitted,
G. M. Atwell, Secretary.

Young Ladies' Missionary Society

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.

Dear Pastor: The Young Ladies' Missionary Society holds its meetings every three weeks at the homes of the various members.

The membership at present is about twenty-five.

Fifty dollars were raised from the "Chocolate" which was held in the church last spring and from dues which are ten cents a month. The money was divided between home and foreign missions and was contributed through the Baptist societies.

The girls sew at the meetings and have lately hemmed about a hundred towels for the Baptist Hospital. Before the summer vacation they basted patchwork and sent it to a western missionary to be used in industrial schools.

Faithfully submitted,
Grace Googins, Secretary.

Boys' Club

Rev. A. K. de Blois, Ph. D.

Dear Pastor: In reporting the work of the Boys' Club I should have liked to make a statement concerning work for boys in general, but the lack of time and space will allow me only to report of our own work.

* * *

We have had a great many things of interest during the past year, among which were games for amusement with game tournament, lectures which were instructive as well as amusing and the official work of the club which helps the boys in that branch of instruction. * * *

During most of the year the Club met but twice each month on the second and fourth Saturdays. During the last month we have held meetings every week. This is a permanent change, which increases the opportunities of the work. The first part of the evening is given up to a social hour for which they have games and all the best magazines. Following this the boys gather for a short meeting where they transact all business that comes up before them. Whenever possible we have some interesting speaker to address the boys on some topic of the day. During the year we have had some very interesting and instructive talks given: Col. J. M. Emery told at several meetings the story of his capture and imprisonment during the Civil War; Mr. Webster Tomlinson revealed the mysteries of cypher writing and the use of invisible inks; Mr. Craig related to us in detail his experiences in the Klondyke.

This year it was decided to make more of the annual entertainment than had been customary, and to ask an admission fee from the friends who would attend. We arranged to give an old fashioned play called "Ye Deestriet Skule." * * *
The financial success of the entertainment

was greater than we had even dared to expect. After bills were paid we had a bank account of $50.00 to our credit.

To close the season we gave the boys a social evening and arranged an interesting programme. We had readings, music and impersonations after which refreshments were served. We recognize the vacation months of July and August and close our doors. The fall brought many new plans of work. The question of a military organization was brought up and referred to the Deacons of the church, whose committee brought in a favorable report. Col. Emery, who is such a good friend of the boys and who was also on the committee offered his services in drilling the company. Every second and fourth Saturdays of the month the Colonel gives us his valuable time in this work. We can never thank him enough for this sacrificing service which he gives us so cheerfully.

The question of a messenger service came up later, and the Sunday School officers appointed a committee of three to look into the matter. They brought in a recommendation that the question be turned over to the Boys' Club, with the suggestion that they organize such a service as a department of their work. Although I have not yet succeeded in doing much in this branch of work I hope in the near future to have such an organization as will give Mr. Parker and the Sunday School officers much needed assistance.

Another thing that I am very glad to report is the active interest that the Mens' League has taken in the Club. They took up the matter in a very practical way by appointing an Advisory Committee consisting of the Director of the Club as chairman, Col. J. M. Emery, Mr. Bowman Lingle, Mr. C. M. Clarke, Mr. Robert J. Pickett and Mr. J. A. Hessler. This fills a great need for the assistance and we hope that with the additional help we may reach the high aims that are set before us.

At the close of the year we have a membership of about 35 and a cash balance of $45.50. The outlook for the future is very bright and with God's help we will make this work the success that it should be. * * *

The boy of today is the man of tomorrow and many of these boys, if they receive the right aid and guidance, may be the leading men of the church tomorrow. This makes it extremely important that we do as much for them as we can while they are boys. This is the time when the boy is most susceptibile to being taught and if handled in the right way, to be guided. Of course we are hampered in many ways, but I feel that time, patience, perseverance and God's blessing on our labor, will work out a great success. We have to study the work as we go along. We feel the lack of proper accommodations where we could take up athletic work and have club rooms where we could have things as they would more fully suit our work. * * *

Hoping we may have your kind interest in the work, I respectfully submit this report. A. R. Rhenisch, Director.

Raymond Mission

Rev. Austen K. de Blois, Ph. D.,

Dear Pastor: The Mission Committee submits to you the following reports for the year.

C. A. Pienkowsky, Chairman.

TREASURER

Receipts

Bal. on Jan. 1, 1903.....	$167.78	
Pledges and subscriptions	616.60	
Basket collections	98.26	
First Church S. S.	58.13	
		$940.77

Disbursements

Pastor's salary	$481.75	
Pulpit Supplies	85.00	
Janitor	144.00	
Insurance	28.00	
Fuel	22.25	
Gas	14.60	
Music	5.00	
Printing	7.50	
Repairs	18.20	
Sundry Small Bill.....	16.30	
	$822.60	
Bal. on Dec. 31, 1903	118.17	
		$940.77

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. Wigney, Treasurer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Looking back over the year we find much to encourage us. While we cannot point to any material gain in number of scholars enrolled, our attendance during 1903 has been less fluctuating than in previous years, indicating that we have secured a firmer hold upon the children. The average attendance for the year was about 165.

Our finances are also in a more satis-

factory condition than ever before. Our receipts were:

Weekly Collections	$118.21
Donations	35.50
Birthday Offerings	42.45
Total	$196.16

The Birthday Offerings are donated to the sustaining two free beds in the private hospital conducted by Rev. M. D. Eubank, our former Pastor, in connection with his missionary work at Huchow, China. Stimulated by the undertaking of the Sunday School the older people of the Mission have also given $28.50 for this work.

The additions to the church by baptism from the Sunday School have numbered six, as follows:

Etta Pacius, George Throw, Ruby Stith, Eva Throw, Florence Alm, Elsie Alm.

Respectfully submitted,

L. T. Austermell, Supt.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

The Industrial School has held 27 lessons with an average attendance of 90 children and an average attendance of 7 teachers. On April 4th, we were pleased to have with us Dr. de Blois who addressed the children. Mrs. Atwell entertained the children with some humorous recitations, the Misses Gale furnished some music, Dr. de Blois presented the books to 14 little girls who repeated all the memory verses for a month perfectly. * * *

October 10th found about 60 little girls with bright, happy faces waiting to greet their teachers, many of whom were back in their places and ready for work.

On December 6th, the school held its Christmas entertainment, to the great delight of the children. * * *

The School has suffered somewhat this year for lack of teachers. * * *

The kindergarten in charge of Miss Lindley and Mrs. Hessler has been very well attended and a good work is being done there.

We regret to lose from our number Mrs. Combs, who has been our faithful treasurer and cutter for three years and who now feels obliged to give up the work on account of her health. * * *

Mrs. Combs, treasurer, reports as follows:

Receipts	$66.58
Disbursements	61.58

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Wm. Wigney, Supt.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

There has been a steady growth in the Society in spiritual interests under the leadership of the two presidents, Henry Schmuck and Louis Reeder. We now have 28 active members and 5 associate members.

We are supporting a native missionary in India, having begun this work a year ago.

Our total receipts for the past year were $85.84. All bills are paid, our missionary is paid in advance for 1904, and still we have $7.00 cash on hand.

We are looking forward to this present year as the brightest and most profitable year since our Society was organized.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry S. Williams, Treas.

The Pastor's Message

This month the annual report is my message to you all. May I urge that you take its recommendations under careful consideration? The Sunday School, Raymond Mission and the Men's League, make special demands upon our wisdom, our prayers and our courage. Let us face the problems and the opportunities in that spirit of high courage which has ever been a characteristic of this honored and historic church.

May God bless you all with His own blessing, with His comfort, His grace, and His fellowship, this year.

Your Pastor,

Austen K. de Blois.

Church Life

Published Monthly by the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Chicago, Illinois

Editor

FREDERIC C. W. PARKER

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Miss E. Gale — L. T. Austermell
Mrs. S. B. Lingle — R. J. Pickett
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Editorial

With this issue our church paper undergoes a metamorphosis—the "Baptist Record" becomes the "Church Life." The clothes do not make the paper any more than the man, but the make-up of the new paper will be appreciated by all. The change of name suggests the new purpose. The paper will not cease to be Baptist, but it will be devoted primarily to the interests of our own church. It will be, not merely a record of the past, but an interpreter of the present and a moulder of the future.

A good name is rather to be chosen than the usual and commonplace "Herald," "Messenger," "Advocate," "Review." The title of another paper, "The Little Minisiter" is rejected because our plans include nothing that is little. We choose the name "Church Life," because it seems the most vital and comprehensive, a name which best expresses the scope of the paper. We hope through the new paper not only to advance the work of our societies and organizations, but also to foster the fellowship and spirituality of our Church.

This first issue we devote exclusively to the reports of the Annual Meeting. In the succeeding numbers we will carry out our plan to give each month a contributed article, illustrated when it is possible, in addition to the news of all phases of our church life. The February issue will contain the sermon preached by Dr. de Blois at the Seventieth Anniversary. In the March number the history of our church by Deacon Goodman will be begun. We thank Miss Stedman for her assistance in designing the cover and the heading for the first page. We thank also Miss Marion Pickett for her designs for special headings which we hope to use in the future.

The Baptist Record Company, the publishers of our former paper, will have the business management of the present publication, with the exception of the subscriptions. We had expected ourselves to assume the entire business management, and Robert J. Pickett had consented to act as business manager. But the Baptist Record Company made such a satisfactory proposition to us, that we placed the publication into their hands. We thus express in deeds what we would also express in words—our appreciation of, and our confidence in, this Company. In the past, they have been generously fair in their treatment of us. In the present, they have granted the many and large desires of the Editor, concerning the quality of the stock, the style, etc. We believe we send forth with this issue one of the best church papers published. C. L. Rundell will represent the Company as advertising manager, and we bespeak for him your generous consideration. We retain charge of the subscription department and Temple Williams will act as subscription manager. We are counting upon your subscription as an expression of your appreciation of this advance step in church journalism.